

'Twin' evil is undone

For a brief moment Saturday night it appeared that Sid Vicious had won the National Wrestling Alliance world heavyweight championship.

But in a scene reminiscent of the World Wrestling Federation's twin-referee ending of a 1988 Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan match game, the NWA came up with "twin" world champions.



GRUNT AND GRIN

BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

Ten minutes into the main event between NWA champion Sting and Vicious on the "Halloween Havoc" pay-per-view show from the UIC Pavilion in Chicago, Sting and Vicious brawled all the way back to the dressing room. When they reappeared, Vicious pinned the wrestler everyone thought was Sting, fireworks and balloons went off, and it was announced that the title had changed hands.

Not so fast. In the midst of Vicious's post-match celebration, who should run into the ring but Sting — with a broken rope around one wrist. As the real Sting passed the surreal Sting, who was leaving for the dressing room, the referee saw both of them and ordered that the match be re-started. Sting hit Vicious with the world title belt and cradled him at 12:40 to retain the championship.

As the story line will probably be explained, Vicious and the rest of the Four Horsemen plotted to steal the title by tying up Sting in the dressing room. Then they sent in a slimmed-down Barry Windham — with face-paint, haircut and costume identical to Sting's — back into the ring with Vicious, who would pin the imposter and win the world title.

The finish of the main event capped a night of surprises for the full house of 8,000 fans — the live gate paid \$115,000 — and a national pay-per-view audience. Twists and turns came from every direction.

There was Jerry Saggs of the Nasty Boys, dressing up like a popcorn vendor and hitting Scott Steiner over the head from behind while he was doing an interview. Earlier in the show the Nasty Boys had lost in an attempt to take the U.S. tag team title from Steiner and his brother Rick.

There were the Southern Boys and Midnight Express manager Jim Cornette imitating one another — with each of the two tag teams losing because of the distraction.

The only title change saw Stan (The Lariat) Hansen take the United States championship from Lex Luger in 9:28, using his lariat maneuver. Hansen currently holds three titles in Japan.

ETC: Barry Windham had been out of action for seven weeks with a knee injury before making his surprise return as the bogus Sting . . . Lex Luger will make his acting debut on the TV series "Superboy" in an episode that airs this coming weekend . . . The WWF has a Saturday Night Main Event taping tonight in Fort Wayne, Ind., for a Nov. 24 air date. . . Mark Calaway, who wrestled in the NWA as Mean Mark, starts with the WWF in November.

The Grunt and Grin column appears every Tuesday

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